(c) a hook extending in the first transverse direction and a second longitudinal direction from the proximal end of the main beam, and defining a concavity open in a second transverse direction;

(d) a first leg extending in a second transverse direction from the first edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam; and

(e) a second leg extending in the second transverse direction from the second edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam.

(f) wherein the main beam, first leg and second leg define a concavity accessible from the first transverse direction whereby the support bracket is transversely nestable.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 1 comprising a laterally extending first bend line along a transition line from the main beam to the connection element.

4. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 3 further comprising at least one rib formed within the main beam and the connection element which extends across and substantially perpendicular to the first bend line, whereby the longitudinal structural strength of the bracket along the first bend line is improved.

5. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 1 comprising a laterally extending second bend line along a transition line from the main beam to the hook.

6. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 5 further comprising at least one rib formed within the main beam and the hook which extends across and substantially perpendicular to the second bend line, whereby the longitudinal structural strength of the bracket along the second bend line is improved.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the connection element includes (i) a strut with a first transverse end connected to the distal end of the main beam and a second transverse end extending in a first transverse direction from the distal end of the main beam, and (ii) the tab with a first longitudinal end connected to the second transverse end of the strut and a second transverse end extending in a second longitudinal direction from the second transverse end of the strut.

8. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 7 comprising a laterally extending third bend line along a transition line from the strut to the tab.

9. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 8 further comprising at least one rib formed within the strut and the tab which extends across and substantially perpendicular to the third bend line, whereby the longitudinal structural strength of the bracket along the third bend line is improved.

10. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the hook includes (i) a transversely extending shaft portion with a first end connected to the proximal end of the main beam and a second end extending in the first transverse direction from the proximal end of the main beam, (ii) a hooking portion with a first end connected to the second end of the shaft and a second end extending away from the distal end of the main beam in a second longitudinal direction from the second end of the shaft, and (iii) a transversely extending extension portion with a first end connected to the second end of the hooking portion and a second end extending in the second transverse direction from the second end of the hooking portion.

11. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 1 further comprising a longitudinally extending fourth bend line along a transition line from the main beam to the first leg.

12. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 11 further comprising a longitudinally extending fifth bend line along a transition line from the main beam to the second leg.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The bracket of claim 10 further comprising a longitudinally aligned hole through each of the shaft and extension portions of the hook effective for accommodating partial passage of a mechanical fastener through the holes.

14. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the proximal longitudinal ends of the first and second legs independently have a transverse height of about 0.5 to 1.5 inches.

15. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 12 wherein (i) the fourth and fifth bend lines each have a distal longitudinal end proximate the distal end of the main beam, and (ii) at least one rib which extends across and is substantially perpendicular to the first bend line extends beyond the distal longitudinal ends of the fourth and fifth bend lines in the second transverse direction.

16. (ORIGINAL) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the bracket is formed from a single unitary piece of metal.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An article of commerce, comprising:

(a) a length of eaves trough; and

(b) a plurality of eaves trough support brackets comprising:

(i) a main beam having longitudinally spaced distal and proximal ends, laterally spaced first and second edges, and transversely spaced first and second surfaces,

(ii) a connection element extending in a first transverse direction from the distal end of the main beam and having a longitudinally extending tab transversely spaced from the main beam in the first transverse direction a distance of about 0.4 to 0.6 inches from the first surface of the main beam,

(iii) a hook extending in the first transverse direction and a second longitudinal direction from the proximal end of the main beam, and defining a concavity open in a second transverse direction,

(iv) a first leg extending in a second transverse direction from the first edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam, and

(v) a second leg extending in the second transverse direction from the second edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam.

(vi) wherein the main beam, first leg and second leg define a concavity accessible from the first transverse direction whereby the support bracket is transversely nestable.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of installing eaves trough, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a length of eaves trough defining a water diversion channel and comprising:

(i) a bottom having longitudinally spaced and laterally extending first and second edges,

(ii) a back wall transversely extending from the second laterally extending edge of the bottom and having a laterally extending distal edge transversely spaced from the bottom in a primary transverse direction,

(iii) a front wall transversely extending from the first laterally extending edge of the bottom and having a laterally extending distal edge transversely spaced from the bottom in the primary transverse direction, and

(iv) a laterally extending snap-lock channel formed along the distal edge of the front wall

(b) obtaining a plurality of eaves trough support brackets comprising:

(i) a main beam having longitudinally spaced distal and proximal ends, laterally spaced first and second edges, and transversely spaced first and second surfaces,

(ii) a connection element extending in a first transverse direction from the distal end of the main beam configured and arranged with a longitudinally extending tab transversely spaced from the main beam in the first transverse direction a distance of about 0.4 to 0.6 inches from the first

surface of the main beam for releasable engagement within the snap-lock channel formed in the eaves trough,

(iii) a hook extending in the first transverse direction and a second longitudinal direction from the proximal end of the main beam, and defining a concavity open in a second transverse direction,

(iv) a first leg extending in a second transverse direction from the first edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam, and

(v) a second leg extending in the second transverse direction from the second edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam,

(vi) wherein the main beam, first leg and second leg define a concavity accessible from the first transverse direction whereby the support bracket is transversely nestable;

(c) engaging the connection element of the support bracket within the snap-lock channel formed in the eaves trough;

(d) sliding the distal edge of the rear wall of the eaves trough into the concavity defined by the hook to form a connected eaves trough assembly;

(e) positioning the connected eaves trough assembly along an eave with the back wall of the eaves trough engaging the eave; and

(f) securing the connected eaves trough assembly to the eave by longitudinally driving a mechanical fastener through the hook of the bracket and the rear wall of the eaves trough, and into connective engagement with the eave.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein the mechanical fastener passes through a hole in the hook and the hole is vertically positioned above the distal edge of the front wall of the eaves trough after installation of the eaves trough assembly such that water retained within the water diversion channel defined by the eaves trough will spill over the distal edge of the front wall of the eaves trough before contacting the hole in the hook.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An eaves trough support bracket, comprising:

(a) a main beam having longitudinally spaced distal and proximal ends, laterally spaced first and second edges, and transversely spaced first and second surfaces;

(b) a connection element extending in a first transverse direction from the distal end of the main beam;

(c) a hook extending in the first transverse direction and a second longitudinal direction from the proximal end of the main beam, and defining a concavity open in a second transverse direction;

(d) a first leg (i) extending in a second transverse direction from the first edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam, and (ii) having a transverse height that tapers in the second transverse direction with a transverse height at the longitudinal center of the main beam of less than one half the transverse height at the proximal longitudinal end of the first leg; and

(e) a second leg (i) extending in the second transverse direction from the second edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam, and (ii) having a transverse height that tapers in the second transverse direction with a transverse height at the longitudinal center of the main beam of less than one half the transverse height at the proximal longitudinal end of the second leg.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An eaves trough support bracket, comprising:

(a) a main beam having longitudinally spaced distal and proximal ends, laterally spaced first and second edges, and transversely spaced first and second surfaces;

(b) a connection element integrally formed with and extending in a first transverse direction from the distal end of the main beam wherein the connection element includes (i) a strut with a first transverse end connected to the distal end of the main beam and a second transverse end extending in a first transverse direction from the distal end of the main beam, and (ii) a tab with a first longitudinal end connected to the second transverse end of the strut and a second transverse end

extending in a second longitudinal direction from the second transverse end of the strut;

(c) a hook extending in the first transverse direction and a second longitudinal direction from the proximal end of the main beam, and defining a concavity open in a second transverse direction;

(d) a first leg extending in a second transverse direction from the first edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam;

(e) a second leg extending in the second transverse direction from the second edge of the main beam with a proximal longitudinal end substantially transversely aligned with the proximal end of the main beam;

(f) a laterally extending first bend line along a transition line from the main beam to the strut;

(g) at least one primary rib formed within the main beam and the strut which (i) extends across and substantially perpendicular to the first bend line, whereby the structural strength of the bracket along the first bend line is improved, and (ii) is latitudinally offset and longitudinally overlaps the first leg and the second leg, whereby the structural strength of the bracket along the first bend line is improved;

(h) a laterally extending second bend line along a transition line from the strut to the tab; and

(i) at least one secondary rib formed within the strut and the tab which (i) extends across and substantially perpendicular to the second bend line, whereby the structural strength of the bracket along the second bend line is improved, and (ii) transversely overlaps the at least one primary rib whereby the strength of the bracket along the strut is improved.